

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
3040 BIDDLE ROAD
MEDFORD, OREGON 97504

RAND ADMINISTRATIVE SITE MAINTENANCE PROJECT **(EA #OR110-02-24)**

DECISION RECORD / RATIONALE / FONSI

I. DECISION

The decision is to implement Alternative 2, the proposed action, for the Rand Administrative Site Maintenance as described in the Environmental Assessment for this project. The project design features described in the EA are an integral part of the proposed action and are to be implemented.

II. DECISION RATIONALE

Alternative 1, the No Action Alternative, is rejected because it will not meet the purpose and need identified in the EA. It will not insure that drinking water at the Rand Administrative Site meets safe and legally mandated water quality standards. It will not assure the continued protection and integrity of the historic structures at the site. It will not address the current safety concerns pertaining to entering and leaving the Merlin - Galice Road. It will not address the dust and erosion issues of the current natural surfaces of some of the parking areas and roads at the Site.

Alternative 2 is selected because it will meet the identified purposes and needs and will accomplish the goals of providing safe drinking and insuring the continued integrity of the historic structures.

Implementation of Alternative 2 will also promote Goals 1.3 and 1.4 of the BLM's Strategic Plan for FY2000 to FY2005. Goal 1.3 addresses the preservation of natural and cultural heritage resources. Goal 1.4 addresses the reduction of threats to public health, safety and property. Goal 1.4 includes complying with federal, state and local environmental regulations and protecting the health and safety of the public as well as employees. Insuring the safety of drinking water is an element of this.

IV. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

During the design and preparation of the project plan and EA, the State of Oregon Department of Human Services Drinking water program was consulted with. The State Historic Preservation Office was also consulted with during the design to ensure that the historic property values were not adversely impacted. Josephine County was also consulted regarding the safety and engineering aspects of ingress / egress from the Merlin- Galice county road and the public health aspects of waste water disposal from the water treatment building.

V. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public notification and involvement during the planning of this project included a scoping effort in February 2002 and an EA public comment period in April– May 2002.– A single letter was received during scoping. It voiced a general support for the project. No comments were received from the public in response to the EA public comment period.

VI. CONCLUSION AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

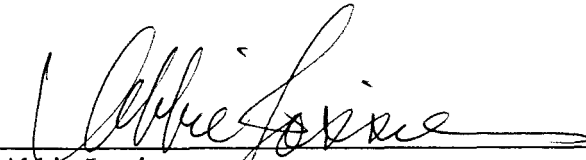
Based on the information and analysis of potential environmental impacts in the project's environmental assessment (EA) and the response from the public and state agencies during design and assessment of the project, I conclude that the decision noted above is consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan, the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and, the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2001). It is also consistent with the Endangered Species Act, The Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations.

It is also my determination that, based on the information and analysis in the EA, the decision is not expected to result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted and will not be prepared.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

This decision is a forest management decision. Administrative remedies are available to persons who believe that they will be adversely affected by this Decision. Administrative recourse is available in accordance with BLM regulations and must follow the procedures and requirements described in 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies.

In accordance with the BLM Forest Management Regulation 43 CFR 5003.2 (a&c), the effective date of this decision will be the date of publication of the Notice of Decision and FONSI in The Grants Pass Daily Courier. Publication of this notice establishes the date initiating the protest period provided for in accordance with 43 CFR 5003.3. Any contest of this decision should state specifically which portion or element of the decision is being protested and cite the applicable CFR regulations.


Abbie Jossie
Field Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

5-15-02
Date